SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 • (561) 686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • TDD (561) 697-2574
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24680, West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680 • www.sfwmd.gov

PRO ESP 10-14
Environmental Resource Regulation

June 3, 2002

Mark S. Lubelski, City Engineer
City of Sunrise
10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd.
Sunrise, FL 33351

Subject: Basin Specific Feasibility Study Update, North New River Canal Basin

Dear Mr. Lubelski:

I'm writing to update you on the progress of the Basin Specific Feasibility Study for the North New River Canal Basin and to address your concerns (letter dated December 10, 2001) about the alternatives and the CERP component YY4.

As we have discussed previously, the YY4 component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) includes construction of a basin divide across the North New River Canal at Markham Park. The design phase for this component is currently proposed to begin in 2012 for implementation in 2018. As a member of the Project Delivery Team for the Water Preserve Areas, which includes the NNRC Basin, I have passed along your concerns about flood protection and a copy of your letter to the project manager.

Whereas the G-123 pump station is not intended for flood control, there have been no models run to determine whether or not operation of this structure would impact flood conditions in Sunrise. One of the alternatives being considered as part of the Basin Specific Feasibility Studies (BSFS) includes eliminating the use of G-123 by the year 2006. If this alternative is pursued beyond the BSFS, a detailed drainage analysis to determine the potential impacts of eliminating the use of G-123 would be performed at that time. Additional meetings with stakeholders will be conducted later this year.

Should you have any questions or concerns in the interim, please do not hesitate to call me at 1-800-432-2045 x6876.

Sincerely,

Damon Meiers, P.E.
Senior Supervising Engineer
Everglades Stormwater Program

DM/jl

cc: Paul Callsen

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF
SUNRISE

Phone: (954) 746-3270
Fax: (954) 746-3287

September 24, 2002

Mr. Damon Meiers, P.E.
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Subject: Basin Specific Feasibility Study Comments

Dear Mr. Meiers:

The City of Sunrise has reviewed the draft Basin Specific Feasibility Studies prepared by Brown and Caldwell. This letter follows our December 10, 2001 letter, which is attached for your information. The issues addressed in the December 10, 2001 letter are still a concern to the City and this letter only provides additional comments not identified in that letter.

Portions of the City are located within the C-11 West and North New River Canal basins. We understand that the Everglades Forever Act requires that these basins satisfy State water quality standards by December 31, 2006, and that permits must be submitted to FDEP by December 31, 2003. We also understand that, unless sufficient data is provided, the default target of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for total phosphorus discharges will be enforced. Furthermore, the current baseline phosphorus loads are 17 ppb and 18 ppb for the C-11 West and North New River Canal Basins, respectively. In addition, both basins are subject to CERP components that will either redirect urban runoff flows from the Everglades Protection Area (EPA) or reduce the discharge substantially so that discharge flows to the EPA are minimal.

Since both basins are reasonably close to the default phosphorus limits of 10 ppb, the City of Sunrise does not recommend that SFWMD pursue any design options for either of these basins until the final phosphorus limits are determined. Furthermore, construction of either a biological or chemical treatment area would only be required to be operational until the CERP components are constructed. Given the magnitude of construction costs identified in the study, the construction of a treatment facility would be an inappropriate use of over 300 million dollars for a benefit of only 12 years. Therefore, the City strongly recommends that the CERP components address the phosphorus discharges into the EPA. In the meantime, the City recommends that each stakeholder perform source

control measures to eliminate any identified hot spots with their basin limits. The City of Sunrise is in the process of entering into a source control agreement to assist SFWMD in identifying and reducing any phosphorus hot spots within the City of Sunrise drainage basins.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, feel free to contact me at (954) 746-3285.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SUNRISE

Mark S. Lubelski, P.E.
City Engineer

cc: Thomas A. Kassawara, P.E., Director of Planning and Development
Paul Callsen, Public Works Director
Sean Dinneen, E.I., Stormwater Engineer

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF
SUNRISE

Phone: (954) 746-3270
Fax: (954) 746-3287

December 10, 2001

Ms. Julia M. Lacey, P.E.
Senior Engineer
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Subject: Impacts of the Elimination of the G-123 Pump Station

Dear Ms. Lacey:

The City of Sunrise attended the Feasibility Study Workshop for the North New River Basin at SFWMD on November 5, 2001. At this workshop, the City was provided the final draft for Water Quality Improvement Strategies for the Everglades-Preliminary Alternative Combinations for the North New River (NNR) Basin. The City of Sunrise has four outfalls (three gravity), which are directly impacted by the water levels in the NNR. The City has reviewed this document and has serious concerns regarding the alternative to eliminate the G-123 pump station.

First, several sections within the report state that the G-123 pump station is not operated for flood control. Although the G-123 pump station may have been designed for controlling seepage into the NNR Basin, SFWMD has stated that the pump station has been utilized during extreme rain events to provide flood protection relief for the western portion of the basin. Any references within this report that state that the G-123 is not utilized for flood control should be documented and revised accordingly.

In order for you to fully understand some of our concerns with the elimination of the pump station, some background information is required. We understand that the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) proposes the installation of a drainage structure along the NNR separating the NNR basin into two separate basins. This would allow for the capture of excess water as a result of seepage and redirect this water back into Water Conservation Area 2 (WCA2) through the G-123 pump station. However, based upon the November 5, 2001 meeting, this work is not projected to occur until the year 2018, pending regulatory and funding approvals. This project may provide substantial flood control benefits by lowering the water table in Western Sunrise. However, detailed drainage studies will need to be performed justifying that there will be no adverse impacts to flood control.

The elimination of the G-123 pump station would in essence be in direct conflict with the intentions of the CERP project mentioned above. Not only would elimination of the G-123 pump station eliminate any seepage control currently occurring through the operation of the G-123, but it could also substantially increase the water table in Western Sunrise. This could have an extreme impact on water quality, quantity, and, in turn, flood control. All of Western Sunrise has been designed, permitted, and constructed with a control elevation of 4.5. Raising the water table could render all exfiltration trenches useless, thus potentially lowering the water quality of discharges into the NNR. More importantly, a rise in the control elevation could have some significant implications on the ability of SFWMD and the City of Sunrise to adequately protect the encroachment of finished floors during a 100-year storm event.

A majority of the drainage districts discharging into the NNR utilize pumping stations. The City currently has three gravity systems discharging into the NNR. Combining the elimination of the G-123 with the pumped discharge from other drainage districts, a significant storm event could substantially inundate finished floor elevations in Western Sunrise.

The City believes that the above reasons are grounds enough to continue to maintain the operation of the G-123 pumping station. However, should SFWMD want to continue to pursue this option, (a) the information regarding the current operation of the pump station should be documented and (b) a detailed drainage analysis should be performed showing that there will be no adverse impacts to water quality, quantity, seepage, and flood control on any communities discharging into the NNR.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. If you have any further questions or require any additional information, contact me at 746-3285.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SUNRISE

Mark S. Lubelski, P.E.
City Engineer

cc: Thomas A. Kassawara, P.E., Director of Planning and Development
Paul Callsen, Public Works Director
Tracey Piccone, P.E., South Florida Water Management District
Jim Nissen, P.E., Brown and Caldwell